

WASHINGTON, Monday, April 16, 1900.

[illegible]

Q. Are the negroes generally of good character? A. Yes, they are. They are not a bad class of people, but a little more ignorant than the white race, and this class constitutes a small proportion.

Q. What upon the whole, is their conduct? Proper, under the circumstances? A. They have been placed of other ways. As I know much better than the most hopeful looked for.

Q. Do you know of any who make the leading objects and desires of the negro population at the present time in reference to themselves? A. As to be protected in the rights of property, and to be treated as equals.

Q. What, if anything, has been done by the Legislature of your State for the accomplishment of these objects? A. The following is a copy of an Act to define the term "persons of color" and to declare the rights of such persons:

Section 1. That all negroes, mulattoes, mustangs and their descendants, having one eighth negro or African blood in their veins, shall be deemed persons of color.

Sec. 2. It is further enacted, That persons of color shall have rights and be subject to the same duties, as persons of the white race, and to the same laws, and to have full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and estate, in the same manner and to the same extent as persons of the white race, except in the case of punishment for the commission of any act or offense, that such a person shall be punished with double the punishment of the white race.

The 3d section simply repeals all conflicting laws. The bill was approved by the Governor March 12, 1866.

Q. Do you know of any persons of color in your State, and if so, are they educated? A. I think they will be sustained by the court.

[illegible]

A large fire at Port-au-Prince, Hayti, on March 19, destroyed 15 squares. Most of the public buildings and the archives were consumed. The origin of the fire is attributed to the rebel incendiaries, and the plot is thought to have been general, as at the same time fires broke out in Jackmel, but were extinguished without doing much damage. Another incendiary attempt was made at Port-au-Prince on the 21st.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TRIBUNE, contains all the Editorial articles, but merely local in character, literary

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